



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 13, 1999

H.R. 898

Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 1999

H.R. 898 would amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77) by designating about 18,000 acres of federal land within the San Isabel National Forest in Colorado as the Spanish Peaks Wilderness. The land is managed as a wilderness study area under current law. The bill would allow for the continuation of historic uses of the Bulls Eye Mine Road, subject to terms and conditions set by the Secretary of Agriculture, and would allow access to privately owned land within the wilderness areas.

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The provision allowing historic use of the Bulls Eye Mine Road could be interpreted to require the Forest Service to reopen the road for motorized uses. (The road was built in the late 19th century for foot traffic and pack-animal travel, and it is currently closed to motorized traffic.) Based on information from the Forest Service, we estimate that reopening the road for use by motorized vehicles and providing ongoing maintenance would cost as much as \$100,000 over the 2000-2004 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Because H.R. 898 also could affect direct spending as a result of potential changes in offsetting receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply; however, we estimate that any such effect would be insignificant. This bill would impose no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Victoria Heid Hall. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.